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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 00416 272239Z

60
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 /016 W
---------- 054776
R 272121Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8955

UNCLAS MANAGUA 0416

ALSO FOR AID/W LA MGMT

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER, NU
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR MANAGUA

REF: ACKERMAN/DIAMANTI TELECON JANUARY 21

1. MISSION JAS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, FSR-2 MANUEL MARTINEZ (AID), HAS ASKED FOR OUR CONCURRENCE ON HIS "AID COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENT" FORM, WITH A DEPARTURE DATE OF MAY 10, 1976. WE HAVE CONCURRED IN THE REQUEST, BUT ONLY TO ENABLE MR. MARTINEZ' ONWARD ASSIGNMENT TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CURRENT ASSIGNMENT PANEL IN AID.

2. WE DID NOT AND CANNOT AGREE TO MR. MARTINEZ' DEFINITIVE DEPARTURE FROM POST WITHOUT AN ACCEPTABLE REPLACEMENT IN SIGHT.

3. MR. MARTINEZ' DEPARTURE HAS BEEN "UNDER CONSIDERATION" SINCE BEFORE MY ARRIVAL AT POST LAST AUGUST. BOTH THE DCM AND I DISCUSSED THIS IMPORTANT POSITION WITH THE BUREAU AND WITH THE ASSIGNMENT BRANCH. WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SEARCH FOR MR. MARTINEZ' REPLACEMENT WAS BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED WHEN WE WERE THERE.

4. MR. MARTINEZ HAS IMPORTANT PERSONAL REASONS FOR WANTING TO BE IN THE US IN MAY. HE ALSO HAS IMPERATIVE REASONS FOR WANTING AN ONWARD ASSIGNMENT ABROAD. HE HAS BEEN REQUIRED TO STAY HERE LONG BEYOND HIS NORMAL TOUR OF DUTY, BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE RESULTANT NEEDS OF THE MISSION. HE DESERVES SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF HIS REQUEST, WHICH WE SUPPORT.
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5. NEVERTHELESS WE STILL MUST FACE AND RESOLVE THE POBLEM OF A CAPABLE AND QUALIFIED REPLACEMENT FOR MR. MARTINEZ. IN THE REFERENCED TELECON THE BUREAU INDICATED THAT AN AS YET UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER WOULD SUCCEED MR. MARTINEZ. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER PER SE, HOWEVER, SINCE AID IS THE LARGEST ELEMENT OF THIS MISSION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT CANDIDATE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE IN A JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATION INCLUDING A SUBSTANTIAL AID MISSION.

6. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES WE HAVE TO KNOW IF MR. MARTINEZ WILL BE ISSUED TRANSFER ORDERS EFFECTIVE MAY 10 AND, IF SO, THE NAME AND ETA OF HIS PROPOSED REPLACEMENT.
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